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30	Resolution No. 29/23-E on Environmental Problem in the Islamic World including Israeli practices and their effects on the environemnt in the occupied Palestinian territories, the occupied Syrian Golan and other Israeli occupied Arab territories.	238
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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE TWENTY-THIRD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (SESSION OF PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND TOLERANCE) CONAKRY, REPUBLIC OF GUINEA 17-20 RAJAB 1416H (9-12 DECEMBER 1995).

The Economic, Science and Technology Affairs Committee of the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), met from 17 to 19 Rajab 1416H (9-11 December 1995) to consider agenda items 44 to 52 of the Regular Agenda and also one Additional item.

2. The Committee used the draft resolutions prepared by the General Secretariat as the main working document.

3. The delegations of Member States attending the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foereign Ministers participated in the working sessions of the Committee.

4. The meeting was chaired by H.E. Djigui CAMARA, National Director for Cooperation. The General Secretariat was represented by H.E. Mr. Ousman N.R. Othman, Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, and Science and Technology.

5. The representative of the following subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference also participated in the work of the Committee:

- Islamic Development Bank (IDB), Jeddah.
- Statistical Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), Ankara.
- Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca.
- Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhaka.
- Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), Jeddah.

6. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of the representatives of the same Member States elected to the Bureau of the Twenty-third Conference of Foreign Ministers, namely;

Chairman	...	Republic of Guinea.
Vice-Chairman	...	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
Vice-Chairman	...	State of Palestine.

Vice-Chairman	...	Republic of Azerbaijan.
Rapporteur	...	Kingdom of Morocco.

7. The Committee deliberated on all the items concerned and finalised the draft resolutions on them for submission to the Plenary of the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

8. The Committee adopted the Report of its deliberations and approved the Draft Resolutions on the items of its Agenda and agreed that the Chairman of the Committee will submit them for adoption at the closing session of the Conference.

A copy of the Resolutions are annexed to this report.

9. The Committee insisted on highlighting the need for the Islamic World to adopt to the challenges and to seize the opportunities offered in the context of the new international economic relations. Hence, the Committee considered with careful attention, the necessity of a qualitative step forward in the economic relations between Member States in the light of the mutations affecting the World economy and especially the signature of the Uruguay Round Agreements and the creation of the World Trade Organization.

10. The Committee considered the report submitted by the Secretary General on the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development, and requested that it be circulated to all Member States for review and comments with the understanding that this subject will be included in the agenda of the next session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs for a recommendation to be submitted to the Twenty-fourth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers which will take an appropriate decision thereon.

11. The Committee, at the request of delegation of the Republic of Sudan, withdrew the Draft Resolution on item 45 on the Agenda concerning Economic Assistance to the Republic of Sudan for malaria control.

12. The Committee agreed to consider and adopt the resolution presented by the Republic of Mozambique, even though it was not included in the Agenda.

13. At the conclusion of its deliberations, the Committee lauded the Chairman for the efficient manner in which he guided the work of the Committee It also thanked the Vice-Chairmen for their contributions to the work of the Committee and the Rapporteur for preparing the Report.

14. The Committee also expressed its appreciation to the General Secretariat and all the subsidiary organs affiliated and specialised institutions of the OIC for their contribution to the work of the Committee.

15. The Committee also thanked the supporting technical staff for the preparatory work done and efforts made to ensure the success of its deliberations, and the interpreters and translators for their invaluable contributions.

16. Finally, the Committee expressed its deep gratitude and sincere thanks to His Excellency General Lansana Conté, President of the Republic of Guinea, and H.E. Mr. Kozo Zoumanigui, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guinea, for their keen interest in the activities of the OIC and for their generous hospitality for the hosting of this Conference.

RESOLUTION NO. 1/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACING THE ISLAMIC COUNTRIES

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling Resolution No.1/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and Resolution No. 1/22-E adopted by the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having also considered with particular attention the results of the Uruguay Round of Negotiations concerning certain sectors of international trade;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the Nineteenth Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Also having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary General as well as of the studies prepared by the Ankara and Casablanca Centres on this subject;

1. Reiterates the need to take serious steps to ensure economic integration among the OIC Member States with the ultimate objective of establishing an Islamic Common Market or any other form of economic integration, on a step-by-step and regional basis, among OIC member countries, in order to help overcome difficulties arising from the formation of global economic groupings.

2. Urges Member States to pursue efforts aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among them so as to maximize the complementarities in their economies and avoid further marginalization.

3. Urges Member States to coordinating their efforts aimed at making the necessary contacts with the concerned international parties and organizations so as to safeguard the economic interests of Islamic States and not to prejudice their exports of various commodities and materials.

4. Calls on developed countries to create a more practical, equitable and more transparent environment enabling developing countries to implement their structural adjustment programmes to enable them to achieve sustainable development.

5. Urges Member States to support the Common Fund established by UNCTAD with a view to stabilizing raw material prices.

6. Recognizes that the effective implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements would necessitate adjustments in the economic and administrative structures of the member countries

to safeguard their interests and to take maximum advantage from the opportunities to be created thereby.

7. Recognizes that if the OIC community is to become an active participant in global economic decision making and commercial relations, coordinated efforts would be the most effective means for mitigating losses and turning losses into profits.

8. Agrees on the need to closely monitor the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreement and requests the General Secretariat and related OIC Institutions to design and propose for implementation, technical assistance programmes to assist those among the member countries which might have difficulties in responding to the new challenges.

9. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 2/23-E
ON
IMPLICATIONS OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SINGLE EUROPEAN MARKET ON THE ISLAMIC WORLD

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling Resolution 2/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution 2/22-E adopted by the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers respectively;

Having examined the Implications of the Establishment of a Single European Market and their impact on economic relations between the European Community and the Islamic States;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the Nineteenth Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Also having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Calls on the European Union to honour its commitments towards its trade partners, members of OIC.

2. Requests Member States to make the necessary efforts to encourage the promotion of an overall economic and commercial cooperation for the benefit of Member States and urge them to stimulate trade exchanges among themselves while eliminating any obstacles likely to hinder this action.

3. Urges the developed countries giving preferences to OIC member countries under various schemes to examine the erosion that is likely to occur in these preferences as a result of the implementation of the Uruguay Round Agreements and to consider to restore these losses by other trade concessions or forms of compensation within the framework of the provisions of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

4. Requests the Ankara and Casablanca Centres, to undertake studies on the effects of the international economic conglomerations, on the economic conditions of the OIC Member States and make appropriate recommendations on the same with a view to safeguarding the national interests of Member States.

5. Requests the General Secretariat to circulate these studies to Member States as soon as they are ready so as to get their views, and to submit a report on the same to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

6. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

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RESOLUTION NO. 3/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND LAND-LOCKED MEMBER STATES

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling Resolution No.3/7-E(IS) and Resolution No. 3/22-E adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit and Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers respectively;

Expressing its profound concern over the serious economic problems faced by the Least-Developed Member States and noting with disappointment the slow progress in the implementation of the new Programme of Action adopted in the Second UN Conference held in 1990 for Least Developed Countries, as well as in the increasing of the Official Development Assistance (ODA);

Expressing concern over the sharp decline in the prices of the raw materials produced and exported by the least developed countries;

Having taken note with satisfaction that, despite the sharp drop in oil revenues in recent years, the Islamic donor countries continued to provide significant external aid and that the amount of aid distributed to the least developed countries exceeded 0.15 per cent of their Gross Domestic Product;

Expressing satisfaction with the IDB's efforts for the extension of assistance to the Least Developed Countries and for the opening of a special account for them as approved by the IDB's Board of Governors at its Seventeenth Annual Session held in Tehran in November 1992;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Considering the report of the Secretary General and the Ankara Centre on the subject;

1. Appeals to the international community, and particularly to the developed countries to fully and efficiently implement the 1990 Plan of Action in this regard and the provisions of other UN resolutions, in particular those contained in UNCTAD VIII.

2. Urges developed countries to increase their contributions within the framework of the International Development Strategy and to follow the example of States who converted the debts contracted by the least developed

countries into grants in order to facilitate the implementation of the structural adjustment measures undertaken by these countries.

3. Notes with satisfaction the efforts of some Member States to extend assistance in the technical, financial, food and other sectors to the least developed member countries and hope that such assistance will continue.

4. Appreciates the continuous efforts of the General Secretariat as well as those of the IDB, subsidiary organs and affiliated institutions in this direction.

5. Stresses the importance of increasing Official Development Assistance (ODA) granted by the developed countries in favour of the developing countries in general and Least Developed Countries in particular.

6. Recognizes the necessity to respond to the needs of Land-locked and transit countries so as to allow them to develop their transport infrastructure.

7. Recalls with satisfaction that the negotiations embodied provisions conferring preferential and favourable to developing countries, including special attention to the particular situation of the least developed countries and calls on the international community to implement these provisions effectively and at the earliest.

8. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the evolution of this issue and to report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 4/23-E
ON
ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND LOW-INCOME OIC MEMBER STATES

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling Resolution No.4/7-E(IS) and Resolution No. 4/22-E adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit and Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers respectively;

Expressing its concern over the prevalence of this phenomenon and its tragic dimensions which should be checked in time;

Reiterating the need to give special attention to the eradication of poverty notably in the Least Developed and Low-income Islamic countries;

Acting in conformity with Islamic rules and precepts as well as the OIC Charter and moved by spirit of Islamic solidarity;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Declares that the complete eradication of poverty in all Member States before the end of the next decade constitutes a common objective of OIC Member States.

2. Confirms the link between the acute nature of the poverty phenomenon and the distortion of the socio-economic development programmes due to the inappropriate international conditions, particularly those relating to the requisites of the infrastructure and the exacerbation of unemployment.

3. Urges Member States and the international community to take specific measures for the fulfillment of the commitments made at the World Social Summit, held in Copenhagen, so as to enable the Least Developed Member States to attain this objective.

4. Reaffirms that a favourable international economic environment taking into account the requirements of poor countries, within the framework of the concessions to be granted to them in terms of financial assistance and investment resources; in terms, also, of their access to

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international markets, raw materials price stability and appropriate structural programmes, is necessary for the success of the struggle being waged by LDCs and low income countries to help them eradicate poverty.

5. Appeals to developed countries to increase their aid programmes in order to attain 0.7% of the GDP in official aid to development, as fixed by the UN.

6. Urges the LDCs and low income countries to play in a more coordinated manner a more active role in international fora dealing with the eradication of poverty.

7. Appeals to Member States to carry out the technical cooperation programmes with a view to improving the sanitary, educational, human and housing conditions as well as other priority needs of their respective populations.

8. Encourages Member States, organs and institutions to support the programmes of OIC least developed countries and the low income ones, with a view to strengthening their local technical capabilities and creating production and job opportunities.

9. Stresses the importance of national policies and effective budgetary policies in the mobilization of national resources making it possible to combat poverty.

10. Reaffirms the need to give special attention to the eradication of poverty in the least developed and poorer Member countries.

11. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 5/23-E
ON
EXTERNAL DEBT OF AFRICAN AND OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE OIC

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling the Resolution No. 5/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and resolution No.5/22-E of the 22nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its deep anxiety over the external debts of the developing Member States which have been increasing at an alarming rate in recent years, just as have been the interest rates, the instability of the rate of exchange and the average ratio of debt servicing;

Noting with satisfaction that the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has written off the official debt of a certain number of least developed/landlocked and/or Sahelian Member States;

Appreciating the initiative of His Highness the Emir of the State of Kuwait, who as Chairman of the Fifth Session of the Organization of the Islamic Summit Conference, declared in his speech to the UN General Assembly on 27/9/1990 that in order to alleviate the burden of indebtedness of the developing States, the State of Kuwait took the initiative of writing off the interests due on development loans extended to developing States;

Also expressing its appreciation for the efforts now being made by His Majesty King Hassan II, Chairman of the Seventh Islamic Summit and H.E. the OIC Secretary General with a view to implementing the resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit on the debt of OIC Member States;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Also having taken cognizance of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Appeals to international creditors to continue adopting every necessary measure to cut down the debt of OIC Member States, in particular through staggered settlement of debts, deferred amortization, reduced or favourable interest rates and swapping debts for various development projects.

2. Urges that approach in the debt settlement should cover all types of debt, including multilateral debt, and all indebted developing countries, and incorporate measures aimed at a once-and-for all reduction arrangement to

reduce their debt burden to a scale that would allow them to resume their economic growth and development.

3. Expresses its gratitude to Member States which have already responded favourably to the above request and appeals to Member States to continue the transfer of capital through grants and concessionary loans to Member States, especially to the least developed, the land-locked and/or Sahelian countries.

4. Renews the call made to the international community, especially the developed countries, to offer substantial reduction of African debts and lowering of the burden of servicing charges while ensuring that this process is combined with the flow of fresh and considerable finances at soft-terms, to African countries.

5. Appeals to those Member States that have not yet done so and to industrialized countries and international organizations to implement the resolution of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference on the external debt of OIC Member States.

6. Appeals also to Member States which are also donors to use their influence with the International Donor Community with regard to implementing this resolution.

7. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report to the ICFM.

RESOLUTION NO. 6/23-E
ON
NEED FOR A QUALITATIVE LEAP IN ECONOMIC RELATIONS AMONG MEMBER STATES IN THE LIGHT OF THE CURRENT CHANGES IN THE WORLD ECONOMY

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling the Resolution No.28/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and resolution No.28/22-E of the 22nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held in Jeddah, from 24-29 June 1995;

Reaffirming the relevance of both the new Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among Member States, endorsed at the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, and underlining in this respect, the dynamic and constructive role played by the President of Turkey in chairing the COMCEC's proceedings;

Realizing the quick evolution of the world economy towards increased globalization and integration, as well as the challenges embodied in the constitution of powerful economic blocs and by the growing liberalization of world trade;

Bearing in mind the forthcoming implementation of the Marrakesh Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as the possible impacts of the Uruguay Round Agreements on the developing World in general and on the OIC Member States in particular, and recognizing in this respect the need for more cooperation and coordination among OIC Member States to ensure that growth in world trade will benefit the Islamic countries;

Convinced that as a result of the establishment of the WTO, trade relations between Member States should be placed within the framework of the rights and obligations provided for by the new trade rules contained in the Final Act of the Uruguay Round;

Taking note with satisfaction of the reports submitted by the General Secretariat of the OIC, SESRTCIC, ICDT, IDB, and ICCI on the subject;

1. Appreciates all the decisions taken by the COMCEC relating to the Strategy and the Plan of Action for the strengthening of inter-Islamic economic and commercial cooperation.

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2. welcomes with satisfaction, the under-mentioned proposals made by His Majesty King Hassan II to the international community on the occasion of the closing session of the Ministerial Conference of the Uruguay Round in Marrakesh:

a) The implementation of a "genuine Marshall Plan" in favour of Africa, with a view to reducing the tremendous poverty and lessen the recurring tensions from which its populations are suffering;

b) The setting up of a new international negotiations mechanism which will better safeguard the national interests of developing countries in general and particularly those of OIC Member States;

3. Exhorts Member States to take necessary steps on a progressive basis with a view to harmonizing the legal framework of their economic policies in order to adapt them to the new trade rules provided for within the WTO framework and encouraging thus a quick development of trade between Member States, so as to attain the target of 20% by the end of the decade.

4. Invites Member States to revitalize their actions in order to increase their share in the world economy notably by a sustained improvement of their international competitiveness at the level of the goods and services exports, by adopting a series of policies meant to improve their economic infrastructures, master the services sector, increase the value added and the quality of products, diversify the productive base and provide the required conditions likely to attract foreign investments.

5. Mandates the OIC to set up an Islamic Observatory for International Competitiveness within existing competent institutions in order to regularly follow the evolution of the market shares of Islamic Countries in the world economy.

6. Emphasizes the growing importance of the services sector in the world economy and calls on Member States to increase technical cooperation in this field.

7. Calls upon Member States to further increase their efforts and their budgetary allocations for Research and Development with a view to support their production of goods and services as well as their competitiveness in international markets.

8. Invites Member States to endeavour to reinforce sub-regional and regional markets and relaunch the existing economic integration projects among Islamic countries, with a view to methodically prepare the establishment of an Islamic

Common Market or any other suitable form of economic integration among themselves.

9. Affirms that in order to achieve the above objectives the private sector in Islamic Countries should play a prominent role through giving impetus to inter-Islamic economic relations and in this context invites the Governments of Member States to support the promotional economic actions undertaken by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in particular, concerning the establishment of direct contacts between private investors and businessmen in the Islamic countries.

10. Invites Member States to strengthen their consultation and coordination mechanisms, particularly within the WTO, as well as in their relations with regional economic blocs, so as to better protect the individual and collective interests of the Islamic countries.

11. Mandates the General Secretariat to supervise through COMCEC, in concert with the Member States and the International Organizations concerned, the implementation of this resolution and submit a follow-up report to the next ICFM.

12. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 7/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, OF THE SYRIAN CITIZENS IN THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN AND OF THE ARAB PEOPLE IN THE OTHER OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolution No. 6/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and resolution No. 6/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers respectively on the subject;

Noting with profound interest the role which the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority is playing in all of the occupied Palestinian territories including the city of Al-Quds Al-Sharif for the improvement of the Palestinian people's living conditions and the overhauling of their national economy;

Inviting attention to the danger of Israel's continued occupation of the Syrian Golan, South Lebanon and the Western Bekka region which are daily exposed to human, economic and material losses;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Hails the efforts made by the Palestinian Liberation Organization in the occupied Palestinian regions for the reconstruction of what had been destroyed under the Israeli occupation, as well the efforts exerted to rebuild and consolidate the Palestinian national economy made by its National Authority.

2. Urges all States and those institutions concerned to expedite the extension of the envisaged necessary assistance to help the Palestinian people to establish their national economy; to act for the consolidation of their national institutions and to enable them to establish their independent State with Al-Quds Al-Sharif as its capital.

3. Reaffirms the earlier resolutions in favour of the extension of all forms of economic, technical, material and moral support and assistance to the Palestinian people, while giving at the same time a preferential treatment to

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Palestinian export products by exempting them from taxes and tariffs.

4. Urges the business people and investors of the OIC Member States to undertake the execution of the economic, industrial, agricultural and housing programmes in all of the occupied Palestinian territories with a view to building the national economy.

5. Condemns Israel's continuing occupation of the Palestinian territories including Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its arbitrary practices against the Palestinian people in all of the occupied towns and villages.

6. Further Condemns the continuing occupation by Israel of Syrian Golan South Lebanon and the Bekka Valley, as well as the arbitrary Israeli practices which have resulted in the deterioration of the economic and social conditions of the Syrian and Lebanese people who are under occupation.

7. Appeals urgently to Member States and the international organizations also to extend every necessary assistance to the Lebanese population in South Lebanon and Western Bekka which are daily and permanently exposed to Israeli aggression causing material losses and resulting in social hardship which paralyse almost permanently, the economic activities of the region.

8. Requests the Secretary General to follow this question and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 8/23-E
ON
ASSISTANCE TO MEMBER STATES STRICKEN
BY DROUGHT AND NATURAL CALAMITIES

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolution No. 7/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and resolution No. 7/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with concern the grave situation caused by natural disasters, drought and desertification, and the ensuing damaging effects on economic and social conditions specially in the sectors of agriculture and food, economic and social infrastructures as well as public services and utilities;

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by some Member States and the Islamic Development Bank which have extended and continue to extend technical and financial assistance as well as food aid to Member States stricken by drought and natural disasters;

Fully aware that afflicted Member States, belonging as they do to the category of the Least-Developed, cannot by themselves, bear the growing burden of anti-drought and anti-desertification campaign and the implementation of major related projects;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses its gratitude to Member States, which have provided and are still providing assistance and food aid to the Member States affected by drought and natural disasters.

2. Expresses its gratitude to IDB for its continuing assistance to Member States afflicted by drought and natural disasters and encourages the Bank to continue its assistance in this domain.

3. Appeals to the International Community also to extend assistance to Member States struck by drought and natural disasters.

4. Calls upon to Member States and OIC Institutions to extend assistance to OIC countries of Inter-governmental

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Authority for Development and the Campaign Against Drought (IGADD) and Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) to enable them to overcome the difficult situation which is threatening them and to extend the same assistance to the Republic of Guinea from where numerous waterways take their source in their campaign against drought.

5. Requests the General Secretariat, the IDB and the International Islamic Relief Agency to convene a meeting in coordination with UN Specialised Agencies (particularly the Office of the International Decade for the Prevention of Natural Disasters ("INDR") of the UN Department for Humanitarian Affairs, in the framework of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Prevention, with a view to organizing a meeting of experts entrusted with examining and recommending appropriate measures aimed at preventing and alleviating the effects of natural disasters in Bangladesh and other Member States affected and threatened by natural disasters.

6. Further Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of the resolution and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 9/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling the resolution No. 9/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and resolution No. 9/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Commending the efforts made by the Lebanese Government to achieve stability and security, assert its authority and recover its institutions;

Taking into account the difficulties encountered by the citizens living in the areas occupied by Israel and in neighbouring areas;

Appreciating the efforts made by the Lebanese authorities to reconstruct their country and consolidate the steadfastness of citizens living in areas occupied by Israel and taking into account the requirements in this connection;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held in Jeddah, from 24-29 June 1995;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Affirms its previous resolutions aiming at extending financial, economic and humanitarian assistance to Lebanon in the light of its needs in the economic, technical and training fields.

3. Reaffirms and reiterates the appeal made by the 22nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers to the international community calling for a generous contribution to the International Fund for the Reconstruction of Lebanon to ensure the effectiveness of this Fund.

4. Invites Member States of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and all international and regional organizations to provide all forms of urgent financial assistance and in kind to Lebanon so that it may rebuild what the Israeli aggression has destroyed and consolidate the steadfastness of the Lebanese in the regions occupied by Israel.

5. Requests the Secretary General to follow this question and report thereon to the next ICFM.

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RESOLUTION NO.10/23-E
ON
ASSISTANCE TO MUSLIMS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling the resolution No. 10/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and resolution No. 10/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Guided by the principles and objectives of the OIC Charter which lay stress on the common objectives and destiny of the peoples of the Ummah, as well as their commitment to consolidate international peace and security;

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC expressing its Members' full solidarity with the Government and people of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina who are still facing a dire situation resulting from the brutal inhuman attacks by the Serbs;

Taking also into account the resolutions adopted by the Extraordinary Sessions of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, held in Istanbul and Jeddah and followed by the Special Ministerial Meeting held in Islamabad as well as the 21st and 22nd Meetings of the OIC Foreign Ministers which were held in Karachi and Casablanca respectively and the Seventh OIC Summit;

Welcoming and fully supporting the cease-fire agreement reached on October 5, 1995 between the Government of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina on the one side, and the Bosnian Serbs on the other, which has gone into effect on October 13, 1995;

Expressing its appreciation for the recently concluded special meeting of the OIC Contact Group Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defence Ministers which were recently held in Kuala Lumpur, highlighting the OIC's firm commitment to finding an equitable and just solution to the Bosnian problem, as well as its resolve to contribute to the peace process in cooperation with the International Contact Group;

Also expressing its appreciation for the work of the Assistance Mobilisation Group for Bosnia-Herzegovina, formed during the OIC Kuala Lumpur meeting, towards providing humanitarian and economic assistance for concrete rehabilitation and reconstruction projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

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Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Notes with deep concern the consequences of the killing, torture, and expulsion and ethnic cleansing of the population which is forcibly prevented from returning to their home under Serbian occupation in the Republic of Hosnia-Herzegovina thus changing the demographic structure of the country.

3. Appeals to Member States, Islamic institutions and other donors to make generous donations as well as provide financial aid to enable the early implementation of the IDB Programme aimed at providing humanitarian and material assistance for reconstruction purposes to the Government and people of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

4. Expresses its appreciation for the assistance provided by the OIC Member States and for the commendable efforts of those Islamic and other international humanitarian bodies in providing relief and assistance to the victims of the aggression in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

5. Calls upon the International Community to take immediate efficient measures, to stop forthwith the genocide and crimes against humanity in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to provide every economic support and assistance to ensure the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. Demands that the sovereignty, territorial integrity and the political independence of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina be safeguarded and protected along its internationally recognized borders, and support the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, which is open for the participation of the Bosnian Serbs and which represents a solid basis for a just and lasting solution by being a catalyst for restoring confidence among its peoples.

7. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 11/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO SOMALIA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling the resolution No. 11/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and resolution No. 11/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Deeply concerned at the critical situation in Somalia and expressing the desire for early restoration of peace and order in that sister Member country;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Appeals to OIC Member States, to provide material and other assistance on an emergency basis to Somalia to end the human suffering in this Muslim country.

3. Commends those Member States that have already provided aid and assistance to the people of Somalia.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and submit a report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.12/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA
IN THE FACE OF REFUGEE INFLUX FROM
LIBERIA AND SIERRA LEONE

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling Resolution 12/7-E(IS) of the 7th Islamic Summit Conference and Resolution 12/22-E of the 22nd Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Deeply concerned over the negative effects of the conflicts in Liberia and Sierra Leone on the economy, security and environment in the Republic of Guinea as a result of refugee influx from these two countries into Guinea;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

After considering the reports of the Secretary General on the matter;

1. Makes an urgent appeal to the international community and Member States to provide the Republic of Guinea with a substantial financial and material assistance to enable it to overcome this difficult situation resulting from the presence on its national territory, of hundreds of thousands of refugees due to the extension of the armed conflict in Liberia to Sierra Leone and the increasing influx into Guinea of refugees whose majority are Muslims coming from Liberia and Sierra Leone.

2. Underlines the necessity for such assistance in order to enable the efficient organization of the eventual return of refugees to their respective countries.

3. Appeals to the Islamic Development Bank to extend financial assistance in the form of grant or soft term loans to the Republic of Guinea to enable the latter build the required social infrastructure for these refugees while reducing the degradation of the environment resulting from the presence of so many refugees.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and submit a report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO.13/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO
THE REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

RECALLING the pertinent Resolution of the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

RECALLING ALSO Resolution 57/19-P and 9/20-E adopted respectively by the 19th and 20th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

CONSIDERING that the worsening of the armed conflict in Sierra Leone has taken a more serious and extensive turn than expected, thus systematically entailing material and human losses, the disruption of economic activities and the displacement of the most productive section of the local population including the mining areas which has resulted in a complete loss of revenue to Government and the private sector as a whole;

TAKING NOTE of the huge expenditure that is incurred by Government totalling US $700,000 per month in prosecuting the war:-

1. Urgently appeals to the International Community and the Member States, to extend substantial financial and material assistance to the Republic of Sierra Leone so as to enable her to cope with this critical situation resulting from the armed conflict and the continued influx of refugees who are Muslims in their majority coming from Liberia and the displaced within Sierra Leone.

2. Urges Member States and the International Community to provide Sierra Leone with emergency aid to help it attenuate the sufferings of more than one million displaced people and other Sierra Leonean refugees living in the neighbouring West African countries as well as the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme.

3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this resolution and to report thereon to the next ICFM.

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RESOLUTION NO.14/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolution No. 13/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and resolution No.13/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held in Jeddah, from 24-29 June 1995;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Expresses its strong support to the people of Albania beset by major economic difficulties at the present phase of their transition towards a market economy.

3. Urges OIC Member States, Islamic Institutions and International Organizations to grant generous economic assistance to Albania so that the Government of Albania may successfully implement its development programme.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

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RESOLUTION NO. 15/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO AFGHANISTAN

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolution No. 14/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and resolution No.14/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Taking into account that Afghanistan is currently faced by serious constraints due to 17 years of war;

Noting that about 70% to 80% of its economic and social infrastructures has been destroyed;

Aware that over 1.5 million Afghans were killed, about 1.5 million disabled and more than 5 million displaced;

Recognizing that about 10 million mines were planted in different parts of the country;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, held in Jeddah, from 24-29 June 1995;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Urges the Member Countries to provide assistance to Afghanistan to solve its problems.

3. Requests the Secretary General to follow-up the question and report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 16/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolution No. 15/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and resolution No.15/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Aware that the Government of the Republic of Uganda is currently experiencing serious strain on its meagre resources as a result of the influx of refugees from neighbouring countries who flock into the country;

Recognizing that Uganda is offering asylum to large numbers of refugees whose number will increase if the state of unrest continues to escalate;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Invites Member States and international organizations to grant urgent financial and economic assistance to Uganda so that it may cope with the refugees problem and other related consequences.

2. Requests the Secretary General to follow-up the matter and report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 17/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolution No. 16/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and resolution No.16/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Confirming full solidarity of the Member Countries of the OIC with the Government and people of Azerbaijan at this grave and very critical time of the country's history;

Referring to the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions regarding this conflict;

Deploring the Armenian hostilities in the Negorno-Karabakh district of Azerbaijan followed by the occupation of about 20 percent of Azerbaijani territory which forced almost one million Azeri people to flee their homes in the face of the brutal attacks and gross violations of human rights by this aggression;

Recognizing the need to demonstrate in more concrete terms the solidarity of the OIC Member Countries with the Government and people of Azerbaijan;

Welcoming and appreciating the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies, United Nations institutions and international organizations;

Having taken Cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Appeals to the Member States and Islamic institutions to make available to the Government of Azerbaijan the much needed economic assistance with a view to alleviating the suffering of the Azeri people.

2. Calls upon the international organizations to provide urgent humanitarian, financial assistance to Azerbaijan.

3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

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RESOLUTION NO. 18/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KYRGYZSTAN

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolution No. 17/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit and resolution No. 17/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Expressing its understanding of the situation which has arisen in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan after attainment of independence and sovereignty;

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties of the transitional period to the free market economy;

Expressing its sympathy towards the consequences of the natural disasters which struck the territory of Kyrgyzstan, thus affecting the socio-economic level of the brotherly people;

Having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Appeals to all Muslims and Islamic financial institutions to be generous and to contribute to the process of overcoming the economic difficulties experienced by Kyrgyzstan either on bilateral basis or through multilateral and regional organisations so as to enable Kyrgyzstan to fulfil its economic programme.

3. Appeals to the Islamic Development Bank to increase its financial and technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and to report to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 19/23-E
ON
ASSISTANCE TO THE KASHMIRI PEOPLE

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1- Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2- Appeals to Member States and Islamic institutions, such as the Islamic Solidarity Fund and Philanthropists, to contribute generously towards providing relief and humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people.

3- Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and report thereon to the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 20/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF YEMEN

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Taking into consideration the economic difficulties faced by the Republic of Yemen which arose from the burdens of reunification and the big losses caused by the aborted secession attempt which took place in June 1994;

Appreciating the efforts exerted by the Yemeni Government on reconciliation, rebuilding of what was destroyed by the war and the development of the Yemeni economy;

Taking into consideration the further burdens borne by the Yemeni Government to provide shelter for groups of refugees from neighbouring African countries;

Recalling that Yemen is one of the least developed countries;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Calls upon the OIC Member States and the other regional and international organizations to extend all kind of economic assistance to help the Yemeni Government rebuild what has been destroyed by the war of secession and supports its efforts for development.

3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

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RESOLUTION NO. 21/23-E
ON
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE OF PALESTINE

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolutions adopted respectively by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Noting with great interest the role played by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-rule regions in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, with a view to improving the living conditions of the Palestinian people and building up the national economy;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses deep appreciation for the assistance extended by some Member Countries and OIC relevant bodies.

2. Commends the efforts made by the Palestine National Authority in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions in order to reconstruct what occupation had destroyed, with a view to promoting the efforts exerted to build up and consolidate the Palestinian national economy.

3. Expresses great appreciation for the assistance provided by some Member States to the Palestinian people in order to build up the national economy in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions in the West Bank and the Gaza-Strip.

4. Urges the speedy granting of the required and approved assistance by the concerned Member States and OIC bodies, with a view to helping the Palestine National Authority and the Palestinian people in the building up of the national economy and the consolidation of their national institutions.

5. Reaffirms the previous resolutions advocating the provision of all forms of support and assistance as well as economic, technical, material and moral assistance in support of the Palestinian people and the Palestine National Authority and Urges that preferential treatment be accorded to Palestinian products as regards importation and exemption of taxes and customs duties.

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6. Urges businessmen and investors of OIC Member States to contribute to the implementation of economic, industrial, agricultural and housing projects in the Palestinian Self-Rule regions, with a view to building up the national economy and enabling the Palestine National Authority and its national institutions to implement their development programmes, during the coming transitional period, in the various economic, social and health fields.

7. Given the obstacles raised by Israel in the face of the Palestinian labour force, appeals to the OIC Member States to provide work opportunities to this Palestinian labour force, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic status of the Palestinian people and putting an end to unemployment.

8. Urges the OIC Member States to conclude bilateral agreements with the Palestine Liberation Organization and its National Authority in the economic, commercial and social field, with a view to enhancing the socio-economic status of the Palestinian people on their national soil.

9. Requests the OIC Secretary General to pursue his efforts aimed at implementing the previous resolutions adopted in support of the State of Palestine and submit a progress report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 22/23-E
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
TO THE REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Bearing in mind the recent admission of the Republic of Mozambique to the Organization of the Islamic Conference during the Seventh Summit of Heads of States and Governments held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco in December, last year;

Noting with satisfaction that the process of pacification and democratization in place in Mozambique creates a climate of peace and harmony conducive to a solid platform of a true reconciliation among Mozambicans, a "sine-qua-non" condition for the implementation of economic and social programmes;

And appreciating the efforts being made by the Government of Mozambique in the implementation of the national reconstruction programme;

1. Calls upon all Member States to continue their support to the implementation of the programme of reconstruction of Mozambique.

2. Appeals to the Islamic Development Bank and all Islamic Institutions to provide the necessary financial assistance for the reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes of Mozambique, particularly those needed to ensure the social reintegration of returnees and internal displaced persons and demobilized combatants as for the demining programme in course in that counrtry.

3. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the implementation of this agreement and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 23/23-E
ON
ACTIVITIES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL COOPERATION (COMCEC)

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling resolution No. 8/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference, held in Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco, from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994) on the question;

Recalling Resolution No. 2/6-E(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference on the activities of the COMCEC mandating it to formulate new Strategies for the enhancement of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among OIC Member States and to take appropriate action for its implementation;

Also recalling the Resolutions adopted at the previous Eleven Sessions of the COMCEC initiating effective action in economic cooperation among Member countries, particularly in the area of trade;

Noting with appreciation the efforts of the General Secretariat, subsidiary organs, affiliated and specialized institutions of OIC, working in the field of economy and trade, to implement the Resolutions of the COMCEC and underlining the pivotal role played by the Ankara Centre in the preparation of the New Plan of Action;

Recognizing the importance for the Member Countries of the new economic configurations emerging at the global level particularly from the creation of the Single European Market; creation and strengthening of regional economic groupings in the Americas, Asia and Pacific; progress in the Middle East Peace Process, and signing of the Uruguay Round Agreements and creation of the World Trade Organization;

Underlining the vital importance of the food security and agricultural development for the Member countries;

Noting with appreciation that the Fourth OIC Ministerial Conference on Food Security and Agricultural Development was successfully held in Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran from 14 to 16 January 1995;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

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1. Notes with appreciation that the Strategy for Economic Cooperation adopted by the COMCEC allows for cooperation among sub-groups of Member countries and is based on the principles giving emphasis to private sector, economic liberalization, integration with the world economy, sanctity of the economic, political, legal and constitutional structures of the Member Countries and their international obligations.

2. Also notes with appreciation that the New Plan of Action is a general and flexible policy document open for improvement during its implementation in accordance with the provisions stipulated in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.

3. Emphasizes the need to urgently implement the New Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among Member Countries of OIC, in compliance with the principles and operational modalities of the Strategy and the procedures set forth in its chapter on Follow-up and Implementation.

4. Agrees that, instead of holding one inter-sectoral meeting, a series of meetings be held to deal either with one area or a number of interrelated areas at a time, on a priority basis, to implement the Plan of Action and calls for the incorporation of corrections as necessary to the chapter on follow up and implementation.

5. Invites the Member States to host sectoral meetings in the areas of cooperation listed in the Plan of Action.

6. Welcomes the offer of the Arab Republic of Egypt to host two sectoral experts group meetings in the areas of "Transport and Communications" and "Food, Agriculture and Rural Development" of the Plan of Action.

7. Welcomes the offer of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to host a sectoral meeting within the framework of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

8. Invites IDB to continue its active support in view of ensuring effective and urgent implementation of the New Plan of Action.

9. Notes with appreciation that starting with its Eleventh Session, COMCEC serves as a platform where the Ministers of Economy could exchange views on current world economic issues and, that the topic "implications on external trade of Member countries of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade Negotiations" was the theme for the 11th COMCEC.

10. Also notes with satisfaction that the theme "Privatization Experiences of the OIC Member Countries" will

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be the theme for the exchange of views sessions of the 12th Session of COMCEC to be held from 2-5 November 1996 in Istanbul.

11. Requests the Secretary General of the OIC to follow up the implementation of the resolutions adopted by COMCEC and to continue extending to the latter every necessary assistance such as to enable it to better organize itself and fulfil its tasks and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 24/23-E
ON
COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TOURISM

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling Resolution No. 28/7 of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Convinced that tourism forms a main pivot in economic development, cultural exchange and rapprochement between nations;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Requests the General Secretariat to convene, as soon as possible, an Expert Group Meeting in the area of Tourism within the framework of COMCEC and the New Plan of Action to Strengthen the Economic and Commercial Cooperation Among OIC Member States.

2. Invites meanwhile, Member States to cooperate in the following areas:-

- provision and exchange of publicity and advertising materials on tourism in different languages,
- organizing special tourism and gastronomy weeks and popular art exhibitions in the Islamic world,
- production of documentary films on main touristic landmarks in the Islamic world,
- organizing group travel among Islamic countries, to strengthen bonds among the peoples of these countries,
- encouraging tourist investments in Islamic countries and directing investors to realize tourist projects in these countries.
- facilitating contacts among experienced tourist offices in Islamic countries.

3. Invites Member States to host the proposed Expert Group Meeting in the area of Tourism with a view to strengthening OIC joint action in this domain.

4. Requests the Secretary General to follow up this matter and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

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RESOLUTION NO. 25/23-E
ON
STATUS OF THE SIGNING AND RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENTS AND STATUTES

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling the Resolution No.18/7-E(IS) adopted by the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and resolution No.18/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having reviewed the developments in respect of signature and/or ratification of the (i) Agreement on Promotion, Protection and Guarantee of Investments among Member States, (ii) General Agreement on Economic, Technical and Commercial Cooperation among Member States, (iii) Framework Agreement on the Establishment of the Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States, (iv) Statute of the Islamic Civil Aviation Council, (v) Islamic States Telecommunications Union, (vi) Agreement on Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having also taken cognizance of the resolutions issued by the Eleventh Session of COMCEC on the matter;

Having taken note with satisfaction of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Expresses satisfaction at the efforts of the Secretary General, of the IDB and COMCEC to speed up the implementation of the Agreements and Statutes aimed at strengthening economic cooperation among Member States.

2. Also expresses satisfaction over the initiatives taken by COMCEC to effect the signing of the Agreements/Statutes that fall within the framework of Inter-Islamic cooperation among COMCEC Sessions and recommends that this practice be pursued.

3. Notes with satisfaction that 16 Member countries have already signed the Framework Agreement and that Seven have ratified it and urges those who have not yet done so, to do it as soon as possible so as to enable the required negotiations to start.

4. Calls upon Member States which have not yet signed and/or ratified the above mentioned Agreements/Statutes to do so, at an early date.

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5. Also Notes with satisfaction that the Agreements for the establishment of the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit have come into effect as of 1 August 1994.

6. Expresses its thanks and appreciation to the IDB for its efforts to establish the Corporation.

7. Invites to Member States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Agreement of the Corporation and pay their respective subscriptions to its capital to make it possible to draw the expected benefits at the widest scale possible within the OIC system.

8. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 26/23-E
ON
REVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SUBSIDIARY ORGANS ACTIVE IN THE ECONOMIC AND TRADE FIELDS.

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling the Resolution No. 19/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Also recalling Resolution No.19/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers on the activities of the Subsidiary Organs of the OIC, namely; the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre for Islamic Countries (SESRTCIC), Ankara; the Islamic Centre for Development of Trade (ICDT), Casablanca; the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT), Dhaka; and the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development (IFSTAD), Jeddah, respectively;

Having also taken note with satisfaction of the activity reports submitted by the representatives of the above-mentioned subsidiary organs;

Appreciating the increasing number of joint activities among the OIC organs and agencies;

Expressing its appreciation at the role played by the subsidiary organs in the implementation of the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member States;

Also expressing appreciation for the role played by the Subsidiary Organs in the elaboration of the New Strategy and the Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic and Commercial Cooperation among OIC Member States;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendation of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken note of the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Commends the role which the Ankara, Casablanca and Dhaka Centres and IFSTAD are playing each in their respective fields.

2. Urges the Member States to actively participate in the work of these organs.

3. Expresses its concern over the persistent financial difficulties faced by the subsidiary organs on account of the non-payment of mandatory contributions by some

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Member States and the Member States's arrears which form an impediment to the fulfillment of these institutions' work programmes.

4. Urges these member States to honour their regular mandatory contributions to the budgets of these bodies and to settle their arrears at the earliest in view of the current financial difficulties being faced by these organs which make them unable to fulfil their responsibilities and even threaten their very existence.

5. Also urges the Member States to benefit from the special services offered by the subsidiary organs, above and beyond the tasks assigned to them in their work programmes, on a contractual basis.

6. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the question and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

RESOLUTION NO. 27/23-E
ON
SUPPORT TO THE ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Having taken note of the Resolution No. 6/6-E(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference;

Recalling Resolution No. 20/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Having examined with appreciation of the activity report of the Islamic Development Bank on the subject;

Noting with satisfaction that the Islamic Development Bank continues to expand its field of operation and activity concerning project financing, trade import and export financing, technical assistance, technical cooperation, special assistance and other fields of cooperation such as food security;

Noting with appreciation that the Bank has played an active role in the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action adopted by the Third Islamic Summit as well as of the various decisions of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC);

Further noting with satisfaction that within the framework of its commitments aimed at meeting its Member States' needs, the Bank has had to elaborate strategies of new programmes some of which were initiated under the auspices of COMCEC for the promotion of inter-Islamic trade;

Noting with satisfaction that the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC) commenced its operations in July 1995, and expressing thanks and appreciation to IDB for its efforts in successfully finalizing the establishment of the Corporation;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken cognizance of the Resolutions of the Eleventh Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC), held in Istanbul, from 5-8 November 1995;

Having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

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1. Expresses its deep satisfaction for the devotion and efficiency with which the IDB President and his assistants are ensuring the good functioning of this institution which continues making an invaluable contribution to the development and progress of Muslim populations.

2. Requests the Islamic Development Bank to keep up its beneficial action and reorientiate its action with a view to increasing its services to the Member States, and to the Islamic Ummah at large.

3. Congratulates the Islamic Development Bank on having set up the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit.

4. Requests Member States to participate in various schemes recently launched by the Islamic Development Bank and to benefit from the Longer Term Trade Financing Scheme, Islamic Banks' Portfolio, IDB Unit Investment Fund, the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit along with IDB's other existing schemes, programmes and operations.

5. Appeals to the Member States who have not yet done so, to sign and ratify the Articles of Agreement of the Islamic Corporation for Insurance of Investment and Export Credit and to pay their respective shares to its capital so that its benefits would be extended to as wide an OIC area as possible.

6. Requests the General Secretariat, the IDB, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry and ICDT to jointly organise seminars on regional basis on the various schemes approved by the COMCEC namely the Longer Term Trade Financing System, the Islamic Export Credit and Investment Guarantee Corporation, the Framework Agreement on Trade Preferential System among OIC Member States and the Islamic Clearing Union with a view of ensuring efficient and the speedy implementation of these schemes for the benefit of business community of the Islamic Ummah.

7. Also invites the Member States which have not yet done so to subscribe to the second capital increase of the IDB and to settle their outstanding contributions and other financial commitments.

8. Calls upon to the Member States to lend their support to the Bank so as to enable it to fulfil its obligations and commitments towards fostering economic development and social progress of the Muslim World.

9. Requests the Secretary General to follow up the matter and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

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RESOLUTION NO. 28/23-E
ON
AFFILIATED INSTITUTIONS OF THE OIC
OPERATING IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMY AND COMMERCE

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17-20 Rajab 1415H (09-12 December 1995),

Recalling the Resolution No. 21/7-E(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference and resolution No. 21/22-E of the Twenty-Second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, on the activities of the OIC Affiliated Institutions;

Taking cognizance of the activity reports submitted by the representatives of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI); Islamic Shipowners Association (ISA); and the International Association of Islamic Banks (IAIB), and appreciating the recent Trade Mission effected by the ICCI to five countries in West Africa;

Expressing its appreciation for the role played by the affiliated institutions in the implementation of the Plan of Action to strengthen economic cooperation among Member States;

Also expressing its appreciation for the role played by the affiliated institutions in the elaboration of the new strategy of the COMCEC Plan of Action to Strengthen Economic Cooperation Among Member Countries;

Confirming the important role the Private Sector has to play in the development of Member States and promotion of Intra-Islamic Cooperation;

Also appreciating the role played by these three institutions in their respective fields of action;

Having taken cognizance of the recommendations of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Also Having taken cognizance of the Resolutions of the Eleventh Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC);

Having taken note of the progress report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1. Notes with appreciation the important role which the ICCI, the ISA, and the the IAIB are assuming in their respective fields.

2. Expresses thanks and appreciation to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce for hosting and organizing the

Second Private Sector Meeting, in collaboration with the General Secretariat of the Islamic Chamber, which was held from 30 September to 02 October 1995 in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt.

3. Takes note with appreciation of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Second Private Sector Meeting and in the Cairo Declaration.

4. Congratulates the ICCI for its important initiative aimed at maintaining contacts with businessmen in Member States and promoting socio-economic development in OIC member countries.

5. Urges to the Governments of OIC member countries to encourage their Federations of Chambers of Commerce and Industry to develop a framework of cooperation with the Islamic Chamber and contribute to its programmes to enhance trade and investment among Islamic countries.

6. Appreciates the efforts undertaken by the Islamic Chamber to host the Third Private Sector Meeting in Jakarta, in collaboration with the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, concurrently with the Sixth Islamic Trade Fair in October 1996 and calls upon the member countries to take measures needed to ensure effective participation of their private sectors in that meeting.

7. Further appreciates the offer of the Republic of Uganda to host the Fourth Private Sector Meeting.

8. Commends the current initiatives taken by the Islamic Shipowners Association to establish a Maritime Company and Cooperative Information System (CIS).

9. Urges the Member States which have not done so yet, to sign the Statute of the Islamic Shipowners Association.

10. Appeals to Member States to continue to extend their support and assistance to the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Islamic Shipowners Association, and the International Association of Islamic Banks.

11. Invites the Islamic Shipowners Association to speed up the progress of establishing Islamic Shipping Companies and urge Member States to encourage the participation of national maritime companies and businessmen of their respective countries to join these companies as well as organizing Liner Conferences and/or coordinating their positions in such Liner Conferences.

12. Requests the Secretary General to follow-up the implementation of this resolution and report thereon to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers.

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RESOLUTION No.29/23-E
ON
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD INCLUDING ISRAELI PRACTICES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES, THE OCCUPIED SYRIAN GOLAN AND OTHER ISRAELI OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES.

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December 1995),

A) Environmental Problems in the Islamic World.

Recalling previous Resolutions on this subject especially Resolutions 2/19-E of the Nineteenth Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, 17/21-E of the Twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, 22/22-E of the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, and 22/7-E (IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Continuing to Stress the right of all human beings especially that in developing countries to obtain sustainable economic development, and to enjoy a healthy and non-polluted environment, as a basic human right;

Re-emphasizing the right of States to protect their environment from harmful activities, and to cooperate among themselves to that end;

Noting with concern that the condition of the environment has reached a stage that requires taking effective measures to stop its deterioration;

Recognizing that environmental destruction is a major global concern that requires the strengthening of international cooperation for the protection of the environment;

Noting with satisfaction the adoption and signature in Paris in September 1994 of the International Convention to combat desertification and drought and underlining the urgent necessity to implement it;

Stressing the need for closely and constantly monitoring the global environmental situation and relevant activities;

Also expressing its deep concern over the devastating effects of hazardous, toxic and radioactive wastes on human- kind and the environment;

Strongly condemning the attempts by some developed countries to export their hazardous & radioactive wastes

for dumping in developing countries and appealing to Member States to sign the Basel Convention on Dangerous Wastes & the Bamako Convention & relevant international agreements;

Guided by the principles of Islam which enjoin the Muslim peoples to safeguard the bounties that Allah has granted them on Earth;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on this subject:

1- Requests Member States to take into account environmental considerations in their developmental policies.

2- Urges Member States which have not yet done so, to ratify the International Convention to combat Desertification and Drought in order to enable its early implementation.

3- Further urges Member States to mobilize financial and institutional resources necessary for the execution of national and sub-regional programmes of action for the protection of the environment.

4- Urges the Member States to attach greater importance to the question of the protection of the Environment and Natural Resources and to its relevance to sustainable development.

5- Appeals the international community to conduct active scientiftic research on teh increase in sea level so as to protect the flaura and fauna in the territories of the Member States.

6- Further appeals developed countries to honour their commitments in current International Agreements with regard to the transfer of financial resources and environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

7- Reaffirms the determination of the Member States to work for the strengthening of internaitonal cooperation with a view to seeking solutions to global environmental problems.

8- Stresses that multilateral cooperation for the protection of the environment should include the provision of new additional financial resources and access to environmentally sound technologies to the developing countries.

9- Calls for the dissemination of pilot experiments in the application of environmental development of the Islamic States and the use of the latter's available expertise in this regard, whether through bilateral or multilateral programmes for the exchange of expertise.

10- Requests Member States to promote coordination and cooperation among environment monitoring networks and remote-control sensing centres and coastal control posts and all other environment protection organs in Islamic States.

11- Urges all Member States to continue consultation and coordination among them at all international meetings and consultations relating to environment protection, especially in the field of hazardous & radioactive waste.

12- Expresses its satisfaction over the fruitful cooperation now existing between the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the United Nations Environment Programme;

13- Calls for the intensification of this cooperation with special reference to the problem of war remnants of World War II and other wars in the Islamic countries, which impedes development of its societies, calls on the international community to address the problem immediately and take the necessary measures to remove land mines & war remnants.

14- Expresses solidarity with the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning its position on the question of the mine-fields remaining in its territory from World War II, their grave effect on environment and the accidents and grievous damages they caused to thousands of its citizens. Also appeals to Member States to stand in solidarity with the Jamahiriya in its efforts to overcome this problem and its right to demand compensation for such damages and that the countries responsible for the mine danger finance mine-hunting operations and produce mine fields maps to the Libyan authorities concerned.

15- Requests the parties in the World War II to provide the Islamic States with the information, data and maps of the mines planted in their territories during the war and to extend the assistance required for the removal of these mines that do still causes damages to the human lives and obstruct development and constructions in vital areas.

B) Israeli practices and their effects on the environment in the occupied Palestinian territories, the occupied Syrian Golan and other Israeli occupied Arab territories.

Recalling Previous OIC and other International Resolutions on this subject;

Also recalling resolutions 14/11 and 15/18 of the UN Environment Programme with respect to the environmental conditions in the occupied Palestinian Arab Territories,

occupied Syrian Golan, Lebanese and other occupied Arab territories;

Referring to the relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council and the ECOSOC;

Reaffirming the rights of mankind to a dignified life enjoying a healthy environment, free of pollution as a basic human and sacred right;

Re-emphasing the principle that nations under foreign occupation must enjoy the right of permanent sovereignty on their national resources;

Expressing deep concern over the brutal practices of the Israeli occupation authorities which include seizure of land and water-resources, the demolition of houses, the construction of new settlements in the occupied Palestinian and Arab Territories, specially in Al-Quds Al-Sharif, the Syrian Golan, the uprooting of trees, the destruction of crops, the cutting off of irrigation waters, the deforestation of wide expanses of land and the use of toxic gases with the attendant serious effects on the Palestinian and other Arab inhabitants and the economic and social situation in those lands;

Appreciating the Report presented by Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development on the environmental problems of the occupied Palestinian and Arab occupied territories which was presented during the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers;

Having examined the Report of the Secretary General on this subject:

1- Condemns and censures Israel for its aggressive policies, the confiscation of Palestinian lands, setting forests on fire, the uprooting of trees, the cutting off of irrigation water and the seizure of water resources, thereby leading to considerable deterioration of ecological conditions in occupied Palestine and to a worsening of the economic and social situation of the citizens.

2- Stressed the inalienable right of the Palestinian population and the citizens in the Occupied Syrian Golan and in the other occupied Arab territories and considered the violation of these rights as unjustified.

3- Requests the Islamic countries to continue to extend help and assistance to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Syrian citizens in the occupied Syrian Golan and the Arab citizens in the Lebanese occupied territories in the drawing up of plans deemed necessary for environmental conservation within these territories and stresses that implemental measures be adopted for

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consolidating plans and taking steps required for exposing the policies pursued by Israeli occupation authorities which have led to ecological deterioration in the occupied Palestinian territories, the occupied Syrian Golan and the Lebanese occupied territories.

4- Strongly Condemns Israel's persistence in changing the legal status of the occupied Syrian Golan and its practices aimed at changing its environmental conditions as well as its geographical, demographic and historical characteristics and at imposing Israeli laws, jurisdiction and administration on the occupied Syrian Golan and in South Lebanon and Western Bekaa occupied by Israel.

5- Condemns Israel's continuous pursuit of nuclear programmes that are bound to cause serious damages to the ;neighbouring Islamic States as these programmes are not subject to the monitoring of the International Atomic Energy Agency and calls upon the international parties and bodies concerned to adopt the measures necesssary for putting an end to these damages.

6- Acknowledges the valuable nature of the IFSTAD report on the crucial environmental issues affecting the Member States and strongly emphasize the need for further similar indepth studies pertaining to such issues so that the Member States are kept abreast of their future development and implications.

7. Requests that the proposals for action included in the report prepared by the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development should be considered for implementation.

RESOLUTION NO.30/23-E
ON
COOPERATION AMONG MEMBER STATES AGAINST EPIDEMIC DISEASES WHICH AFFECT HUMAN, ANIMAL RESOURCES AND NATURAL LIFE

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Expressing grave concern at the worldwide spreading of infectious diseases affecting human, animal resources and natural life during recent years;

Considering the magnitude it has reached in recent years, especially in view of the extensive travels within and outside the Member States and, particularly during the Hajj;

Appreciating the steps taken by the Member States in preventive and curative health measures for the pilgrimage season in particular;

Also expressing profound appreciation for the excellent and efficient health services made available to the Pilgrims by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia;

Having considered the Report of the Secretary General on this subject:

1- Calls for greater coordination among the Member States, the other countries and the World Health Organization to combat these menaces through the use of new recombitant vaccines and immunization schedules against contagious diseases.

2- Appeals for greater coordination and cooperation in the field of health and cooperation by applying the international health regulations such as compulsory vaccination of all Pilgrims coming to the Holy Land and the improvement of sanitary conditions as well as cooperation in their health education before departure through the appropriate media available in their own countries.

3- Requests that a meeting of the Ministers of Health of Member States may be convened at an appropriate time on the subject of epidemic diseases.

4- Requests the Secretary General to take appropriate steps for the implementation of this Resolution.

RESOLUTION NO. 31/23-E
ON
COOPERATION IN COMBATTING DRUG ABUSE, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND THEIR ILLEGAL PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND TRAFFICKING.

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the resolutions adopted by the Fifth Islamic Summit and 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers and the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference on the Control of Narcotics and Drug Abuse;

Concerend at the rising rate of drug abuse, their manufacture and illegal trafficking that endanger the health of millions, particularly the youth;

Noting with concern the new dimensions of the ever growing narcotics problem which is threatening the social and economic structures of countries suffering therefrom;

Taking into consideration the results achieved by the United Nations and its specialized agencies in the field of drug abuse, including the declaration and comprehensive multidisciplinary plan for the prevention of drug abuse and their adoption by the International Conference on Drug Abuse and their illegal trafficking in 1987 and the United Nations Agreement on Control of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances and illegal drug trafficking;

Noting with appreciation the declaration and world programme of action adopted by the 17th U. N. Special Session held in New York in February 1990, and the declaration of the London Conference on Control of Cocaine and restriction of drugs (April 1990);

Reaffirming its conviction of the need to supervise the manufacture, trafficking, import and export of drugs and psychotropic substances, in accordance with the single U. N. Agreement on drugs of 1961 and the U. N. Agreement for combatting illegal trafficking of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances of 1988;

Recognizing the importance of taking measures for controlling components of drugs including sulphur chemicals and solvents which are used in the manufacture of drugs and psychotropic substances, the availability of which increased their illicit processing;

Affirming the guiding principles of enforced treaties on control of narcotics and psychotropic

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substances as well as the control measures advocated by these treaties;

Realizing the urgent need for Member States and relevant international organizations to exert planned and coordinated efforts to eradicate the problem of abusing narcotics and psychotropic substances, trading and smuggling them into Islamic countries;

Reviewing the effects of drug abuse, psychotropic substances and their illegal production, processing and trafficking on the Member States;

Having examined the Secretary General's Report on this subject:

1. Requests the Member States to diligently follow up guidelines contained in the recommendations made by the OIC Expert Group Meeting held from 18-20 October 1988 in Istanbul, Turkey, on the effective measures to control the problem of narcotic drugs in all its aspects and dimensions, including illicit production, processing and trade.

2. Urges the Member States to coordinate their efforts to unify their systems relative to the legal manufacture and importation of psychotropic substances within the frameworks of the relevant international organizations.

3. Welcomes the measures taken by some Member States to draw attention to the damaging effect of narcotics and affirms the importance of preventive measures including the need for crop/income substitution and accessibility to international markets for substituted products.

4. Requests the Member States to continue to intensify their cooperation and to exchange information and technical expertise to control narcotic drugs.

RESOLUTION NO. 32/23-E
ON
ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND WAYS AND MEANS TO DEAL WITH THE ISSUES OF ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Acknowledging the effective interdisciplinary relation between Environment and other sectors of Development including Health;

Considering the importance for Member States to preserve the basic necessities of sustainable development and to assess and monitor on a continuous basis their environmental problems and issues including Health;

Noting with appreciation the awareness of the Member States about Environmental issues and their active role within the UNCED process and its follow-up;

Appreciating the Reports of the Environment prepared by the General Secretariat of IFSTAD;

Recalling the relevant resolutions adopted in this regard by the previous Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers especially the Twenty-first Session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, the Twenty-second Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers No.25/22-E, and the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference (25/7-E(IS);

Conscious of the dire need of the Member States to avail themselves of objective, independent and unbiased information pertaining to their environmental situation and possible remedies that would best serve their interests;

Appreciative of the Environment-related efforts, projects and programmes undertaken by the General Secretariat of the OIC, and its Subsidiary Organs and by the Standing Committee for Scientific and Technical Cooperation COMSTECH;

Having examined the Report of the Secretary Genral on this subject:

1. Welcomes the initiative of the Republic of Tunisia during the 21st ICFM inviting effective cooperation among the Member States and requesting the relevant OIC, regional and international institutions to conduct a comprehensive study of the interrelated issues of Environment, Health and Sustainable Development from the perspective that would best serve the interests of the Member States.

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2. Renews its request that the Secretary General undertakes the above mentioned study by constituting a Governmental Experts Committee comprising at least two Representatives from each geographic region of the OIC and also the Representatives concerned from the General Secretariat and IFSTAD to meet in Tunisia in order to:

(a) draft the guidelines for the above study;

(b) discuss the terms of reference of the said study and work out the administrative, logistic and financial details of its implementation.

3. Decides that the requested study should be carried out through IFSTAD in close consultation with the Member States and their relevant institutions and the General Secretariat, and in cooperation with regional and international organisations.

4. Requests the Secretary General to submit the results of the aforesaid study by the Governmental Experts Committee to the next Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers for consideration.

Annex V

REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS ON CULTURAL AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS

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16. Resolution No. 15/23-C on the unified Hijri Calendar for the beginning of lunar month and the unification of Islamic holidays. 274

17. Resolution No. 16/23-C on destruction of the Babri Masjid and protection of Islamic holy places. 275

18. Resolution No. 17/23-C on Destruction of Mosques and Islmic Monuments in Bosnia-Herzegovina. 277

19. Resolution No. 18/23-C on the Inclusion of Information on the Islamic Communities in the Balkans and the Caucasus in the History and Georaphy text books and other publication. 279

20. Resolution NO. 19/23-C on the Provision of Assistance to the Muslims in Kosovo and Sanjak. 280

21. Resolution No. 20/23-C on the Protection of the Cultural Heritage and the Educational Institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina. 281

22. Resolution No. 21/23-C on the Proposal for the Establishment of an Islamic Centre for Advanced Medical Training and Research in Bangladesh. 283

23. Resolution No. 22/23-C on the Proposed Project for a New Campus for the Zeitouna University in Tunisia. 284

24. Resolution No. 23/23-C on the Destruction of Charar-e-Sharif Islamic Complex in Kashmir. 285

25. Resolution No. 24/23-C on the Twinning of Palestinian Universities in the Occupied Territories and Universities in the OIC Member States. 286

26. Resolution NO. 25/23-C on the Teaching of the Subject of the History and Geography of Palestine. 288

27. Resolution No. 26/23-C on the Educational Situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and Syrian Golan. 289

28. Resolution No. 27/23-C on the Preservation of the Islamic Character of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and its Human Heritage and Religious Rights. 292

29. Resolution No. 28/23-C on the Israeli Aggressions against Islamic Shrines in Al-Khalil. 294

30. Resolution No. 29/23-C on the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), Istanbul. 296

31. Resolution No. 30/23-C on the International Commission for the Preservation of the Islamic Cultural Heritage (ICPICH), Istanbul. 298

32. Resolution No. 31/23-C on the Islamic Fiqh Academy. 300

33. Resolution No. 32/23-C on the Islamic Solidarity Fund and its Waqf. 302

34. Resolution No. 33/23-C on the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). 304

35. Resolution No. 34/23-C on the Islamic Solidarity Games, Sports Federation. 306

36. Resolution No. 35/23-C on the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, Benghazi. 308

37. Resolution No. 36/23-C on the World Federation of International Arab-Islamic Schools. 309

38. Resolution No. 37/23-C on Dawah Activities and the Reactivation of the Committee on Coordination of Islamic Action. 311

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REPORT OF THE CULTURAL AND ISLAMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE TWENTY-THIRD ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS (SESSION OF PEACE, SOLIDARITY AND TOLERANCE) CONAKRY - REPUBLIC OF GUINEA 17-20 RAJAB 1416-H. 9-12 DECEMBER, 1995.

1- The Cultural and Islamic Affairs Committee of the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers met in Conakry, Republic of Guinea from 17-20 Rajab 1416-H corresponding to December 9-12, 1995 in order to examine the agenda items pertaining to Cultural and Islamic Affairs, the General Assembly of the Conference.

2- The deliberations of the Cultural and Islamic Affairs Committee were opened by His Excellency Ambassador Facinet Bangoura of the Republic of Guinea, host to the Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. His Excellency started the meeting by welcoming the delegates present and wishing them a pleasant stay in their second home. His Excellency emphasized the need for the Committee's deliberations to be characterized by realism. He added that, despite the huge responsibility that lies with us, we are convinced that fraternal cooperation, mutual understanding among the august members and devotion to Islam will ensure the success of the Committee's proceedings. His Excellency also proposed a work programme which was unanimously approved by the Committee.

3- According to the decision of the General Assembly, it was understood that the Bureau of the Committee would be made up of the following member countries:

- The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - Vice-Chairman.
- The Republic of Azerbaijan - Vice-Chairman.
- The State of Palestine - Vice-Chairman.
- The Kingdom of Morocco - Rapporteur.

4- The General Secretariat was represented by Ambassador Ibrahim Auf, Assistant Secretary General for Cultural Affairs and Information and Mr. Ahmed Ali Ghazali, Director of Cultural and Islamic Affairs.

5- The Committee's deliberations considered the agenda Items 53 to 60. The Committee's deliberations on each item were preceded by a background presentation made by the Assistant Secretary General for Cultural Affairs and the draft resolutions were adopted unanimously by the participants.

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6- A special emphasis was put on the financial difficulties faced by the subsidiary Organs, Universities and Islamic Cultural Institutions, in their functioning. It was maintained to renew the pressing appeal to the Member Countries for a rapid solution to this crisis.

7- The Committee adopted the report on its deliberations and approved the draft resolutions relating to the items on its agenda annexed to this report.

8- The Committee commended the Chairman for his excellent conduct of the deliberations and for his good performance which contributed to the conclusion of the deliberations in an optimal manner.

9- The Committee's Chairman expressed his very sincere thanks to all the members for the brotherly atmosphere which prevailed during the meeting and for their thorough knowledge of the questions examined which enabled the Committee to achieve positive results within the allotted time.

10. The Chairman also expressed his thanks to the Assistant Secretary General for his excellent assistance in conducting the Committee's proceedings. He also extended his sincere thanks to the technical staff and translators and interpretors for the competent performance of their tasks.

Conakry, 19 Rajab, 1416H.
Corresponding to 11 December, 1995.

RESOLUTION NO.1 /23-C
ON THE
ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN NIGER

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous resolutions of the Islamic Conferences and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made by the Government of Niger, the OIC General Secretariat, the Board of Trustees of the University, the IDB and the ISF for the continuation of the University's action and smooth functioning of the Islamic University of Niger.

Expressing its thanks to Member States, Al-Azhar Al-Shareef, the Islamic Development Bank, Rabitah Al-Alam Al-Islami, the International Islamic Charitable Organization, World Islamic Da'wa Association and the United Arab Emirates as well as to the Islamic Solidarity Fund, the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), the Iqra Charitable Organisation and the Sheikh Zayed Institution for Humanitarian and charitable Works and to all those who extended support and assistance for the establishment and functioning of the University;

Having considered the Report submitted by the Secretary General on the Islamic University in Niger;

Recognizing the need to provide the University with regular financial resources and the necessary educational and material support.

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 1/7-C (IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Expresses its heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Government of Niger and the University Board of Trustees for their fruitful cooperation and persistent efforts which led to the reopening of the University and the resumption of its activity. It also expresses its appreciation for the positive cooperation of the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization in supervising the academic and cultural aspects of the educational action of the University.

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2. Commends to the consistent support extended by the ISF to meet to the major part of the University's annual budget and appeals to the Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, and Islamic Charity Organizations to give financial and material support to this important Islamic institution, considering the annual deficit the modest budget of this university is faced with due to the lack of resources.

3. Also reaffirms the need of establishing a Waqf whose proceeds would be sufficient to ensure steady resources for the University as is the case for the Islamic University in Uganda, urges donors to step up their efforts to achieve this objective and requests the University Board of Trustees to act in this direction with a view to securing a final solution to the long-term financial problems of the University.

4. Expresses its appreciation to the Government of Niger for having donated a plot of land in central Niamey as a Waqf for the Islamic University of Say.

RESOLUTION NO. 2/23-C
ON THE
ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous Resolutions of the Islamic Conferences and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs on the Islamic University in Uganda;

Expressing appreciation to the Government of Uganda for having ratified the University Statute and its submission of instruments of ratification at the OIC General Secretariat;

Expressing its gratitude to the Member States, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as to the Islamic Solidarity Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, the International Islamic Charitable Foundation (Kuwait), the International Islamic Da'wah Association (Libya), the Islamic Committee of the International Crescent, and other Islamic institutions for their generous support to the University;

Having considered the Report submitted by the Secretary General on the Islamic University in Uganda;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 2/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Invites the Board of Trustees to continue its action to ensure appropriate conditions for the University to fulfill its tasks in accordance with its Statute and the Headquarters Agreement signed by the Government of Uganda and the OIC General Secretariat.

2. Appeals to the Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Islamic Charity Institutions, to contribute material and financial assistance for the annual operating budget of the Islamic University in Uganda and which is faced with an annual deficit due to the lack of financial resources.

3. Expresses its satisfaction with the involvement of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in the supervision of the educational and cultural aspects of the teaching process in the University, the elaboration of appropriate curriculums, the adoption of the necessary books and reference material and assistance to strengthen the teaching of the Arabic language in the University.

4. Commends the generous financial support extended by the Government of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques through the establishment of a Waqf for the University. It also expresses its thanks to the Government of the Republic of Uganda for having donated a plot of land in central Kampala to the Islamic University in Uganda, as a contribution towards the setting up of the Waqf. The Conference also commends the provision by the Islamic Solidarity Fund, of financial assistance to the Islamic University in Uganda for the past academic years, which enabled the University to continue assuming its tasks throughout the difficult circumstances it had experienced.

5. Appeals to Member States and the IDB to make donations for the construction of faculty buildings for the University.

RESOLUTION NO. 3/23-C
ON THE
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN MALAYSIA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous Resolutions adopted by the Islamic Conferences and the Recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs on the International Islamic University in Malaysia;

Also taking note of the continuing satisfactory progress of this University;

Expressing appreciation to the Government of Malaysia for its continued material and financial and other support towards covering the operating expenses of the University and the construction of its new campus;

Also expressing appreciation to Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and other Islamic institutions which have extended moral and material assistance to the University;

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary General on the subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 3/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Requests anew that the OIC General Secretariat and the Member States further contribute to the progress and development of the International Islamic University in Malaysia so that it can further increase its capacity and use all its potential to achieve its objectives.

2. Notes with great satisfaction the progress achieved by the University in the fields of research and learning, thanks to its enlightened management and to the support extended by the Malaysian Government to all its activities.

3. Appeals to all Member States which have not yet concluded Agreements of Co-sponsorship of this University, within the framework of their bilateral cooperation with Malaysia to do so at an early date.

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4. Reiterates its request of all Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, ISESCO and other Islamic institutions to continue supporting this University by extending financial aid, supplying the University with academic reference books and manuals to enrich its library and giving it of any other relevant assistance such as curricula, teachers and scholarships to enable more students to enrol in this University.

RESOLUTION NO. 4/23-C
ON THE
ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN BANGLADESH

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the Islamic Conferences on the Islamic University of Bangladesh;

Noting the progress so far achieved towards the establishment of this University, and the execution of other necessary works;

Having considered the Report submitted by the Secretary General on this subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 4/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Commends the steps taken by the People's Republic of Bangladesh for the development of the University, bearing its operational costs and the building of the new University Campus so as to accommodate a larger number of students.

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Member States and Islamic institutions which have extended assistance to the University.

3. Urges all Member States, the Islamic Solidarity Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, the Muslim World League and other Islamic financial institutions to provide adequate academic and financial assistance to the University so that it can achieve its objectives.

4. Calls upon the General Secretariat to pursue its contacts with the People's Republic of Bangladesh to ensure continued financial and moral support to the University.

5. Also calls upon the General Secretariat, in cooperation with ISESCO, to provide academic assistance to the Islamic University in Bangladesh, from Member States Universities through secondment of teachers and provision of scholarships and books.

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RESOLUTION NO. 5/23-C
ON
KING FAISAL MOSQUE IN NDJAMENA,
REPUBLIC OF CHAD

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the various Resolutions adopted by the Islamic Conferences and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs on King Faisal Mosque in Ndjamena, Republic of Chad;

Having considered the Report submitted by the Secretary General on this subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 5/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Emphasizes the pressing need for the Islamic and educational services provided by this Islamic institution, King Faisal Mosque as one of the Islamic educational institutions that needs special attention on the part of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and ISESCO.

2. Requests the Government of the Republic of Chad and the General Secretariat to prepare the technical study and cost estimates needed for the rehabilitation of the Mosque and its annexes and to communicate them to Member States.

3. Urges all Member States to make financial contributions towards the restoration and furnishing of the Mosque and its annexes.

4. Requests all Member States and Islamic financial institutions to contribute to this institution by providing it with curricula, teachers and scholarships for graduate students so as to enable them to pursue their higher studies in other Islamic Universities.

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RESOLUTION NO. 6/23-C ON THE REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES AND RESEARCH, TIMBUCTU, MALI.

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous Resolutions adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the recommendations adopted by the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs on the Regional Institute of Islamic Studies and Research in Timbuctu (Mali);

Welcoming the efforts being made by the Government of the Republic of Mali and the General Secretariat for the development of the Institute;

Having considered the Report submitted by the Secretary General on this subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 6/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Appeals to all Member States, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and other Islamic institutions to continue providing material support to the Regional Institute of Islamic Studies and Research in Timbuctu so that it may achieve its objectives.

2. Appeals to the Member States which have technical facilities in the fields of conservation and processing of manuscripts to provide scholarships to the officials of the Institute to enhance their competence in these fields.

3. Expresses its thanks to the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA) and invites them to pay greater attention to the Institute and provide it with the necessary technical assistance so that it may continue to carry out its functions.

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RESOLUTION NO. 7/23-C
ON THE
REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR COMPLEMENTARY
EDUCATION (RICE), ISLAMABAD (PAKISTAN)

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous Resolutions adopted by the previous Islamic Conferences and the recommendations adopted by the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs on the Regional Institute for Complementary Education in Islamabad;

Having considered the Report submitted by the Secretary General on this subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 7/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Emphasizes once again, the importance of establishing the Regional Institute for Complementary Education (RICE) in Islamabad, Pakistan, and promoting the teaching of the Arabic language and Islamic culture in non-Arabic speaking Asian countries.

2. Expresses its appreciation of the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to establish this Institute and ensure its operation and extends its thanks to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the financial support it has extended to the Institute and to the Arab Republic of Egypt for the secondment of Arabic and religious affairs teachers. It also expresses appreciation to the ISF for its financial assistance to the Institute.

3. Appeals to the Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the World Federation of International Arab-Islamic Schools to contribute generously to this project.

RESOLUTION NO. 8/23-C
ON THE
ISLAMIC CENTRE IN GUINEA-BISSAU

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the Resolutions adopted by the Islamic Conferences and the recommendations made by the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs on the Islamic Centre in Guinea-Bissau;

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary General on the subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 8/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Expresses its satisfaction at the implementation of phase I of the project of the Islamic Centre in Guinea-Bissau.

2. Requests the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and the General Secretariat to continue their coordination with a view to completing the ongoing construction of the Great Mosque in Bissau, within the limits of the financial resources currently available.

3. Calls on all Member States, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Islamic institutions to provide financial and material assistance to the project of the Islamic Centre in Guinea-Bissau.

RESOLUTION NO. 9/23-C
ON THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
ISLAMIC CULTURAL CENTRE IN MORONI,
ISLAMIC FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF COMOROS

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the Islamic Conferences and the recommendations adopted by the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs on the establishment of an Islamic Cultural Centre in Moroni, Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros;

Taking into consideration the need of the Muslim people in the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros for such a centre;

Having considered the Report submitted by the Secretary General on the Centre in question;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 9/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Calls on the General Secretariat to continue its coordination with the Government of the Islamic Federal Republic of the Comoros with a view to overcoming the difficulties that hinder the establishment of the Islamic Cultural Centre in Moroni and expediting the establishment of the Centre given its benefits for the Comorian and the neighbouring peoples.

2. Expresses its appreciation to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Indonesia, the Sultanate of Brunei Darussalam, the United Arab Emirates, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the World Islamic Dawa Association (Libya) which have been the first to give financial assistance to the Centre.

3. Urges all Member States and Islamic institutions to render every possible assistance to this project.

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RESOLUTION NO. 10/23-C
ON THE
ISLAMIC INSTITUTE OF TRANSLATION IN KHARTOUM
(REPUBLIC OF SUDAN)

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the relevant paragraph of the Twenty-First ICFM on the Islamic Institute of Translation in Khartoum and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having taken Note of the report submitted by the Secretary General of the Organization on the said Institute;

And appreciating the efforts being exerted by the Sudanese Government so as to enhance this Institute and to ensure its continuity;

1. Urges the Member States to extend assistance to the Institute so as to enable it to continue to play its important role in teaching and training the students.

2. Urges the OIC Subsidiary and specialized organs as well as the relevant centres and quarters to extend financial and technical support to the Institute, to cooperate with it in the fields of common interest to them.

RESOLUTION NO.11/23-C
ON
STUDYING WAYS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTING AND EXECUTING THE CULTURAL STRATEGY AND THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE ISLAMIC WORLD

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the Declaration of Makkah Al-Mukarramah issued by the Third Islamic Summit Conference and the various resolutions adopted by other Islamic Conferences and particularly Resolution 1/6-C(IS) by virtue of which the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference held in Dakar adopted the Islamic World's Cultural Strategy and the attendent Plan of Action;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the Cultural Strategy and the Plan of Action for the Islamic world as well as the report prepared by the First Meeting of Officials of OIC Subsidiary, Specialized and Affiliated Organs and Islamic Universities concerning the implementation of the Cultural Strategy;

Recomemdends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 15/7-C (IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in CAsasblanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Reiterates the importance of this strategy in the field of ensuring a wider propagation of learning, eradicating ignorance, raising the level of Islamic education and culture in the Islamic world and enhancing Joint Islamic Action.

2. Recommends the continuation of the remarkable efforts being exerted for the implementation of the strategy through the programme of action already approved by the Islamic Conference of Foreign Minisgters at its Twenty-first Session held in Karachi, in April, 1993; directs the OIC General Secretariat to submit this plan to the next session of COMIAC, and recommends that a meeting of the concerned Ministers be convened for this purpose and present a report to the next Conference of Foreign Ministers.

3. Requests Member States to take the necessasry steps for incorporating the strategy into their national policies in the cultural and educational fields.

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RESOLUTION NO. 12/23-C
ON THE
ADOPTION OF A UNIFIED STAND ON THE BELITTLING OF ISLAMIC SANCTITIES AND VALUES

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Emphasizing the objectives of the Charter of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on coordinating efforts to protect the sacred values and places;

Expressing deep concern at the aggressions, by the spoken and written words as well as by action against Muslims in many parts of the world targeting their values, sanctities, selves, properties and religious and cultural heritage, in addition to the violation, curtailment and denial of their basic rights and freedoms relating to their belief and the exercise of rituals;

Recalling the resolutions and statements of the various and successive Islamic Conferences on the Adoption of a Unified Stand on the Belittling of Islamic Sanctities and Values, especially Resolution No. 17/7-C (IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Expressing its deep concern at the killing of Muslims and the aggression against their shrines in Palestine, India, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Jammu and Kashmir as well as other parts of the world;

Taking note of the legal study prepared by the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the legal and procedural aspects relating the conclusion of an international legal document that ensures respect for Islamic values and sanctities;

1. Condemns anew these aggressions and violations wherever they may be and whatever their source, means or manifestation.

2. Strongly reaffirms the provisions of the statements and resolutions adopted by the previous Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers and the Sixth and Seventh Islamic Conferences in this respect.

3. Appeals to all Member States to stand resolutely against these challenges and to confront them with every available means so that the values, shrines and rights of Muslim monorities and communities in non-Islamic States may not be subject to profanation, demolition or confiscation.

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4. Requests the Secretary General to circulate to all Member States the legal and procedural memorandum prepared by the Gneral Secretariat concerning the conclusion of an in international legal document so as to ensure observance of the Islamic values and sanctities, in order to elicit their opinions and observations concerning the substance and form of the document; in preperation for the setting up of a Governmental Expert Group to examine the issue and conceive a legal document thereon, in the light of the observations that may be put forward by the Member States, and on the basis of relevant international instruments, and to submit the results of the work of the Group to the next Islamic Conference.

RESOLUTION NO. 13/23-C
ON THE
INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION AND ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE ISLAMIC SOCIETY

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Considering the previous resolutions of the Islamic Conferences and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs concerning the International Islamic Women's Organization;

Conscious of the growing need for Muslims throughout the world to promote Islamic revival and to create societies based on the Islamic principles of peace, justice and equality for all human beings;

Convinced that these noble objectives can only be achieved through the participation of all Muslims, including Muslim Women who constitute half of the Islamic Ummah;

Having taken note of the Symposium on the Role of Women in the Development of Islamic Society held, at the expert level, at the kind invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in Tehran on 17 to 19 Zul Qaadah 1415H (17-19 April 1995) in implementation of Resolution No. 10/7-C (IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference;

Having taken note of the provision of the report of the Secretary General on the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing;

Expressing its appreciation for the good preparation and coordination among the OIC Member States in this respect;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

1- Decides to submit the results of the Symposium on the Role of Women in the Development of Islamic Society, held in Tehran to the Islamic Fiqh Academy for review and comments to be submitted to the next Conference of Foreign Ministers.

2- Supports in this regard the consultations on women's issues at the Muslim Women Parliamentarians Conference held on 1-3 August 1995 in Islamabad (Pakistan).

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3- Reaffirms that the implementation of the documents adopted by the Fourth World Conference of Women in Beijing will be carried out by the Member States according to their sovereignty right while taking into consideration their respective constitutions, national legislations, religious and moral values and in such a way as to conform with the principles of our true Islamic religion.

RESOLUTION NO. 14/23-C
ON
CHILD CARE AND PROTECTION
IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Bearing in mind the Declaration issued by the World Summit on the Child and the Plan of Action which urge the development of national programmes for children;

Recalling resolution 2/6-C(IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference;

Recognizing that millions of children in the Islamic World die in mass as a result of diseases from which they may be protected or because of malnutrition; and that other millions suffer from the same circumstances in famines, drought and armed conflicts;

Having taken note of the report of the Experts Symposium held at the OIC Headquarters from 28 to 30 June 1994 to prepare a Draft Document on the Rights and Care of the Child in Islam;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on Child Care and Protection in the Islamic World and listened to the views of the representatives of the Member States, bodies and organisations;

Having considered also the Note submitted by the Republic of the Sudan on child refugees from the Sudan;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 16/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Hails the Declaration on Child Rights and Protection in Islam which was drawn up by the expert-level Meeting held at the General Secretariat headquarters from 28 to 30 June 1994 and which clearly focused on the teachings of the Islamic faith and its noble values enjoined on us by the Holy Quran and the noble tradition of the Prophet (PBUH) and by which the Muslim Ummah is distinguished from all other peoples of the world. The Declaration is to serve as a reference by which the peoples and governments of this Ummah will be guided in drawing up their child care programmes. It will also serve as a notification to all other peoples of the world of Islam's stand on children's affairs.

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2. Calls upon all Member States to sign and ratify the UN 1989 Convention on Child Rights before the end of 1995, to see to the alignment thereon of their national legislations and to pay special attention to the incorporation of Children's issues into their relevant national programs for the realization of the objectives of the Five Year (1991-95) and Ten-Year (1991-2000) plans for children; and the necessity of participation and positive cooperation in the external follow-up activities at the international level particularly in conjunction with the UN specialized organs such as the Copenhagen Conference on Social Development held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in March 1995 and the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, China, in September 1995, both of which accorded utmost importance to the protection of children and women which is compatible with the precepts of the True Islamic Religion.

3. Requests those Member States which have ratified the Convention to take the necessary steps to bring their constitutions, laws and practices in line with the provisions of the Convention.

4. Supports the concept of "debt relief for developing countries for the sake of child survival and development" as a basic consideration for alleviating the debt burden on developing countries.

5. Welcomes the concept of 20/20, whereby 20 per cent of national budgets should be devoted to basic social services and the same percentage of Official Development Assistance should be assigned to the same sectors and recommends it to the Member-governments for appropriate implementation.

6. Calls upon Member States to adopt every necessary measure to prevent any further armed conflicts while considering measures for conflict prevention, management and resolution, and to pay special attention to the needs of children and women, who have been the major victims in recent wars, in particular by allowing, in time of conflict, periods of truce and corridors of peace, for the passage of relief supplies, immunization against diseases and the provision of health services; and by banning the manufacture, stockpiling, import, export and use of land mines, a weapon whose victims are primarily women, children and other civilians and whose devastating effects continue long after the conflict.

7. Expresses deep concern over the plight of Sudanese child refugees and requests all bodies to exert their maximum efforts in order to assist these child refugees, expedite their return and reuniting them with their families. It also calls for the non-involvement of these children in any armed conflict and not to recruit

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them in the armed forces or for any other actions which may place their personal safety and security at risk.

8. Requests the General Secretariat to follow up the implementation of the resolution of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference on the convening of the Ministerial Conference on Child Affairs in Islamic Countries.

9. Calls upon Member States to collaborate among themselves and to act individually and collectively, to play a leading role in the international arena and thus serve as a model for what can be achieved for the benefit of children.

RESOLUTION NO.15/23-C
ON THE
UNIFIED HIJRI CALENDAR FOR THE BEGINNING OF LUNAR MONTH AND THE UNIFICATION OF ISLAMIC HOLIDAYS

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous resolutions adopted by the OIC and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs, for the establishment of a Unified Hijri Calendar for the beginning of Lunar months and the Unification of Islamic Holidays;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organizatioan of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 13/7-C (IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Appeals to all Member States and Islamic institutions to use the time schedules prepared by the Committee on the Unified Hijri Calendar as a basis for their own calendar.

2. Calls upon the Member States to uniformly observe Friday as the weekly holiday and to use the Hijri date.

3. Calls upon the member States, the General Secretariat and the Islamic Fiqh Academy to seek the assistance of Islamic jurists and astronomers with a view to reaching an agreement on the unificaiton of the Hijri Calendar.

4. Reiterates the importance of convening a meeting of the Committee on the Unified Hijri Calendar and of the other States joining the Committee to maximize coordination for unifying the beginnings of lunar months and Islamic Holidays in all Islamic countries.

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RESOLUTION NO.16/23-C
ON
DESTRUCTION OF THE BABRI MASJID
AND PROTECTION OF ISLAMIC HOLY PLACES

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the objectives of the OIC which stress the need for coordinated effort to safeguard the Islamic Holy Places and strengthen the struggle of Islamic peoples for the preservation of their dignity, independence and national rights;

Also recalling the resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, on the unified stand against the desecration of Islamic Holy Places, specially Resolution No. 3/6-C (IS) of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference;

Noting that the Babri Mosque with its history spanning five centuries was the subject of veneration and respect of Muslims all over the world;

Recalling that the Organization of the Islamic Conference made several appeals to the Indian Government to prevent any violation of the sanctity of the Mosque and emphasized the responsibility of the Government of India for safeguarding the inviolability of the Mosque and protecting its building against attacks by Hindu extremists;

Expressing deep concern at acts of vandalism and violence perpetrated by Hindu extremists in India against the Muslim minority aimed at uprooting the Islamic culture and heritage in India.

Also expressing deep anger and indignation at the destruction of the Babri Mosque and resulting killing of thousands of innocent Muslims and the indiscriminate destruction of their homes;

Recalling also the resolutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on the unified stand against the violations of the sanctity of Sacred Muslim Places;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 18/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13

Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1- Strongly condemns the destruction of the historic Babri Mosque in Ayodhya, India, by Hindu extremists and holds them responsible for this outrageous act of desecration and sabotage.

2- Expresses deep regret over the failure of the Indian authorities to take appropriate measures to protect this important Muslim holy site.

3- Strongly condemns the systematic killing of thousands of innocent Muslims in various parts of India and expresses deep concern over the safety and security of the Muslim minority in India.

4- Welcomes, in this respect, the decision made by the Supreme Court of India on 24 October 1994 that "the settlement of disputes were outside its jurisdiction".

5- Calls upon the Government of India to:

(a) Ensure the safety and protection of the Muslims and all Islamic Holy Sites throughout India in accordance with its responsibilities and obligations under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international instruments.

(b) Take immediate steps to implement its solemn commitment to reconstruct the Babri Mosque on its original site, to restore it as a holy place for Muslims, and to punish those guilty of the sacrilegious act of destroying a revered religious symbol of the Islamic world.

(c) Remove the makeshift Hindu temple, put together on the site of the Babri Mosque which is a continuation of the acts of desecration and an affront to the feelings of the Muslims in India and all parts of the Muslim world.

(d) Take immediate steps to ensure the protection of about 3,000 other Mosques especially those at Mathura and Varanasi, which have been the targets of threats and destruction attempts by Hindu extremists.

RESOLUTION NO. 17/23-C
ON
DESTRUCTION OF MOSQUES AND ISLAMIC MONUMENTS
IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Bearing in mind the objectives of the OIC Charter concerning the safeguarding of Islamic identity;

Recalling the cultural and architectural history of Bosnia-Herzegovina which shows the harmonious diversity that shapes the identity of Bosnia-Herzegovina;

Noting that the total and horrifying destruction of mosques and other Sacred Islamic Places in Bosnia-Herzegovina by Serbs aimed at achieving ethnic cleansing constitutes a crime of genocide;

Recalling that the Organization of the Islamic Conference and UNESCO adopted many resolutions on saving the antiquities, liberaries and other Sacred Islamic Places in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

Having considered the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having considered the report of the Secretary General on the subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 19/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Calls upon the relevant subsidiary organs, specialized and affiliated institutions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference to conduct a study aimed at drawing up a programme for rebuilding the libraries in Bosnia-Herzegovina with the assistance of the member countries of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

2. Urges Member States to assist in the rebuilding of the national and university libraries in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

3. Strongly condemns the destruction of the cultural entities and educational institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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4. Calls upon the Secretary General of the OIC in coordination with the relevant UN bodies and other international institutions to take urgent steps to ensure the safety and the protection of Islamic monuments, educational institutions, libraries and other cultural entities in Bosnia-Herzegovina which are the common cultural heritage of all mankind.

5. Calls upon the OIC Member States to condemn the Serbian aggression, to help the restoration of the Islamic heritage in Bosnia-Herzegovina, to support the initiatives of the OIC Secretary General on this important issue and to set up a Committee which will start immediately the necessary planning and appraisal process for the restoration of the Islamic heritage in that country.

RESOLUTION NO.18/23-C
ON THE
INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON THE
ISLAMIC COMMUNITIES IN THE BLAKANS AND THE
CAUCASUS IN THE HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY TEXT BOOKS
AND OTHER PUBLICATION

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Considering that the emergence of new independent States in the Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia, with Muslim populations possessing a valuable Islamic cultural heritage which had been concealed from the rest of the world for many years, has opened new vistas for cooperation among the OIC Member States and enlarged also the OICs field of interest and scope of activities;

Believing in this fact and desiring to promote contact between these Muslim peoples and the rest of the Islamic World, formulate programmes to strengthen the links of these peoples with their Islamic culture and at the same time inform the other Muslim peoples of the great contributions made by the peoples of these new states towards the building of the Islamic civilization;

Taking note of the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary General on the subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 25/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Calls upon the OIC Member States to incorporate into the geography and history textbooks of their schools and other relevant publications information concerning Muslim Communities in the Balkans, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

2. Also calls upon the Statistical, Economic and Social Research and Training Centre to carry out a preliminary study and draw up a work programme on this issue with a view to convening an expert meeting in the near future.

RESOLUTION NO.19/23-C
ON THE
PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO THE
MUSLIMS IN KOSOVA AND SANJAK

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Noting the total and terrible destruction by the Serbs of economic life and cultural heritage pursuant to their objective of ethnic cleansing;

Considering the great difficulties faced by the citizens of Kosovo and denial of the exercise of their cultural and economic rights;

Referring to the recommendations of the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Economic Affairs;

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary General on the subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 26/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1- Strongly condemns the Serb aggression against the Muslim Albanian population of Kosovo, aimed at depriving this population of their Islamic identity and culture.

2- Urges all OIC Member States and the relevant OIC organizations to help the Albanians in Kosovo and Sanjak to preserve their cultural heritage and Islamic identity against the Serb aggression.

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RESOLUTION NO.20/23-C
ON THE
PROTECTION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE
EDUCAITONAL INSTITUTIONS IN BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Having taken note of the recommendations made by the Nineteenth Session of the Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs; of the resolution of the Fourteenth Session of the Executive Council of ISESCO on its role in supporting the cultural and educational institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina; of the report of the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA, Istanbul) on its activities in the fields of research and publishing of the Islamic cultural heritage of Bosnia-Herzegovina; the Mostar 2004 Project in the area of rebuilding the historic city; and the activities of the Centre aimed at furthering the awareness of the international public opinion about the Islamic heritage, in implementation of the resolutions of the Twenty-first Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Karachi - April 1993);

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary General on the subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 27/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Strongly condemns the Serb aggression, and its destruction of cultural entities and educational institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

2. Calls upon the Secretary General of the OIC, in coordination with the relevant UN bodies and other international institutions, to take urgent steps to ensure the safety and protection of Islamic monuments, educational institutions, libraries and other cultural entities in Bosnia-Herzegovina which are part of the common cultural heritage of all mankind.

3. Calls for the establishment of a Committee which will start work immediately on planning and assessing the restoration of the Islamic heritage in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

4. Supports the initiatives of the OIC Secretary General on this important issue.

5. Also calls upon the OIC Member States to assist in the restoration of the Islamic heritage and educational institutions, including libraries, in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. Commends the support extended by ISESCO through its work programme for the benefit of educational institutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina and through allocation of special amounts in its budget for financing these institutions.

7. Stresses the importance of the "MOSTAR 2004" Project initiated by the Istanbul Centre (IRCICA) and commends the steps taken to implement this ambitious plan, and calls on the concerned institutions to extend the necessary support to the Centre so that it can continue with the project for listing Islamic historic monuments, preserving the unique cultural identity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and protecting the country's civilizational heritage.

RESOLUTION NO.21/23-C
ON THE
PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ISLAMIC CENTRE FOR ADVANCED MEDICAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH IN BANGLADESH

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the previous resolutions of the Islamic Conferences of Foreign Ministers on the Centre and the recommendation of the 19th Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs on the proposal for the establishment of an Islamic Centre for Advanced Medical Training and Research in Bangladesh;

Having taken note of the clarifications made by the People's Republic of Bangladesh;

Recognizing the need for the Muslim Ummah to have an Advanced Medical Training and Research Centre;

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary General on this subject;

Recommends that the Member States and the General Secretariat of the Organization of the Islamic Conference should follow up the implementation of the operative paragraphs of resolution 14/7-C(IS) of the Seventh Islamic Summit Conference held in Casablanca from 11 to 13 Rajab 1415H (13-15 December 1994), which states the following: (The Conference)

1. Requests the General Secretariat to intensify its on-going contacts with Member States aimed at obtaining their views and comments on the subject and to conduct further research on the technical and financial requirements of the project.

RESOLUTION NO.22/23/-C
ON THE
PROPOSED PROJECT FOR A NEW CAMPUS FOR
THE ZEITOUNA UNIVERSITY IN TUNISIA

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Recalling the resolutions adopted by previous Islamic Conferences regarding this project and the recommendations of the Nineteenth Islamic Commission for Economic, Cultural and Social Affairs;

Underlining the importance of the role being played by this educational institution in the service of Islam and Muslims;

Expressing satisfaction over and appreciation of the efforts rendered by the Government of Tunisia aimed at developing and supporting this University by building a new campus adjacent to Al-Zeitouna Mosque;

Having considered the report submitted by the Secretary General on this subject;

1. Commends the allocation of one million U.S. dollars made by the Islamic Development Bank for the project and recommends that the Bank transfer the said amount in accordance with the mechanism stipulated in the Agreement signed by the Republic of Tunisia and the Bank in 1992.

2. Reiterates its support for the construction of a new campus so as to enable the University to consolidate its educational and cultural role, and its commitment in favour of the implementation of the project.

3. Urges the Member States, the Islamic Solidarity Fund and the Islamic institutions to continue extending every financial, material and moral support so that the University can raise the amount of 4,595,000 US Dollars needed in order to speed up the completion of the new campus.

4. Calls on the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank to consider including the project of the new building of the Zeitouna University among the institutions that benefit from the Bank's Islamic Universities Waqf.

RESOLUTION NO.23/23-C
ON THE
DESTRUCTION OF CHARAR-E-SHARIF ISLAMIC COMPLEX
IN KASHMIR

The Twenty-third Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (Session of Peace, Solidarity and Tolerance), held in Conakry, Republic of Guinea, from 17 to 20 Rajab, 1416H (9-12 December, 1995),

Having considered the presentation of the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, expressed its deep concern over the Indian armed action on the occasion of Eid-ul-Adha of 1415H, which resulted in damages to over 1500 houses and shops and the destruction of holy relics including the Mosque and Islamic Complex at Charar-e-Sharif which was razed to the ground.

1- "Strongly deplore the destruction of the 535 years old Islamic complex at Charar-e-Sharif which constitutes a serious attack against the Islamic heritage of the Muslim people of Kashmir.

2- Expresses its concern over the loss of life and the burning of over 1500 houses of the civilian residents of Charar-e-Sharif.

3- Urgees the international community particularly OIC member states to spare no effort to ensure protection of the fundamental rights of the Kashmiri people including their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions as well as safeguarding their religious and cultural rights and their Islamic heritage.

4- Requests the Secretary General to establish necessary contacts urgently for evaluating the damage and providing emergency assistance for the reconstruction of the Mosque and the Islamic complex at Charar-e-Sharif.